It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, if additional extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required therefor (including fees for net addition of claims) are hereby authorized to be charged to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Amendments

not entered BW 7/17/02

In the Claims:

Please cancel claim 4 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please substitute the following claim 1 for the pending claim 1:

1. (Twice amended) A DNA construct, which comprises a DNA molecule of SEQ ID NO:1 or a DNA molecule which is at least 90% homologous thereto, wherein said DNA molecule is under control of a heterologous neuro-specific promoter, and wherein said DNA molecule codes for a protein that has an activity of AD7c-NTP when expressed in neuronal cells.

Please substitute the following claim 6 for the pending claim 6:

6. (Once amended) The host cell of claim 5, which is a neuronal cell.

Please substitute the following claim 36 for the pending claim 36:

36. (Once amended) The DNA construct of claim 1, wherein said DNA molecule codes for a protein having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

Please substitute the following claim 37 for the pending claim 37:

37. (Once amended) The DNA construct of claim 1, wherein said DNA molecule consists of the DNA molecule of SEQ ID NO:1.

Please substitute the following claim 38 for the pending claim 38:

38. (Once amended) The DNA construct of claim 37, wherein said DNA molecule codes for a protein having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

Please add the following claims:

39. (New) A DNA construct, which comprises a DNA molecule of SEQ ID NO:1, wherein said DNA molecule is under control of a heterologous neuro-specific promoter, and wherein said DNA molecule codes for a protein that has an activity of AD7c-NTP when expressed in neuronal cells.

40. (New) The DNA construct of claim 39, which is contained within a vector.

41. (New) The DNA construct of claim 39, which is contained within a virion.

42. (New) A host cell transformed with the DNA construct of claim 39.

43. (New) The host cell of claim 42, which is a neuronal cell.

44. (New) An *in vitro* method for screening a candidate drug that is potentially useful for the treatment or prevention of Alzheimer's disease, neuroectodermal tumors, malignant astrocytomas, and glioblastomas, which comprises:

(a) contacting a candidate drug with the host cell of claim 42, and

(b) detecting at least one of the following:

(i) the suppression or prevention of expression of the protein coded for by the DNA construct of said host cell;

(ii) the increased degradation of the protein coded for by the DNA construct of said host cell; or

(iii) the reduction of frequency of at least one of neuritic sprouting, nerve cell death, degenerating neurons, neurofibrillary tangles, or irregular swollen neurites and axons in the host;

due to the drug candidate compared to a control cell line which has not contacted the candidate drug.

45. (New) The method of claim 44, wherein said protein has SEQ ID NO:2.

46. (New) The method of claim 44, wherein said protein is over-expressed by said host cell.

47. (New) The method of claim 44, wherein said cell is a neuronal cell.

48. (New) The DNA construct of claim 39, wherein said activity of AD7c-NTP is selected from the group consisting of neuritic sprouting, nerve cell death, nerve cell degeneration, neurofibrillary tangles, and irregular swollen neurites.

49. (New) The DNA construct of claim 39, wherein said DNA molecule codes for a protein having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.